GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:395
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2014
MANUAL SCAVENGING
Patil Shri Shivaji Adhalrao;Shrirang Shri Chandu Barne

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the practice of manual scavenging is still prevalent in some parts of the country despite efforts of the Government for enactment of various legislations for its eradication and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure its prohibition and effective implementation of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any survey to ascertain the number of dry toilets and the manual scavengers in the country, if so, the details and the outcome thereof, State-wise; and

(d) whether the guidelines issued by the National Commission for Safai Karmcharis for utilisation of funds for eradication of manual scavenging and rehabilitation of the scavengers are being complied with in letter and spirit and if so, the details of the funds allocated and utilised during each of the last three years and the current year?

Answer

MINISTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement in answer to parts (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.395 by Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivajirao and Shri Shrirang Appa Barne regarding 'Manual Scavenging'.

(a)&(b): The practice of manual scavenging, arising from the continuing existence of insanitary latrines, still persists in various parts of the country. As the existing laws had not proved adequate in eliminating the twin evils of insanitary latrines and manual scavenging, the Parliament has enacted the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013" (MS Act, 2013), which has come into force w.e.f. i.e. 6th December, 2013 in whole of the country, except Jammu & Kashmir. The Act intends to, inter alia, achieve the following objectives:-

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i) Eliminate the insanitary latrines.
ii) Prohibit:-
a) Employment as Manual Scavengers
b) Hazardous manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.
iii) Survey of Manual Scavengers and their rehabilitation,
       Action Taken for implementation of the Act:
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Matter of implementation of the Act is being pursued with the concerned States and Central Ministries/Deptt. at various levels. Two meetings have been held with the States /UTs on 12.11.2013 and 20.1.2014 to impress upon them the need for urgent actions to be taken for implementation of the Act.

The rules under the Act have been notified on 12.12.2013.

A Central Monitoring Committee has been constituted on 13.1.2014, to monitor implementation of the Act. First meeting of the CMC was held on 28.1.2014.

After the Act came into force, senior Officers of the Ministry have reviewed implementation of the Act in Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, NCT of Delhi, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal, with their concerned departments.

(c) As per the 'Houselisting and Housing Census 2011' data, which became available in March, 2012, there were 7,94,390 latrines in the country, from which night soil is removed by humans. State/Union Territory wise details of such latrines are given in the statement at Annexure-I. Section 4(1)(a) of the MS Act, 2013 mandates survey of all insanitary latrines by local authorities in their jurisdiction.

MS Act, 2013 casts a responsibility on the Chief Executive Officers of the Municipalities and Panchayats to cause a survey to identify

such persons, if they have reason to believe that some persons are engaged or employed in manual scavenging in their jurisdiction. As per the information available on the basis of survey undertaken, so far 11,584 manual scavengers have been identified in 12 States. State wise details of such manual scavengers are given in the statement at Annexure-II.

(d) National Commission for Safai Karamcharis has informed that no such guidelines have been issued by it. However, a Central Sector Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers is being implemented for rehabilitation of manual scavengers, through the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation, in consonance with the guidelines of this Scheme. The details of the funds allocated and utilized during the last three years and current year, under the Scheme are as follows:-

(Rs. In crore)

Year	Budget allocation	(Revised Estimates)	Expenditure
2011-12	35.00		Nil
2012-13	20.00		20.00
2013-14	70.00		35.00
2014-15	448.00		Nil
	(Upto 31.7 2014)		